REMARKS

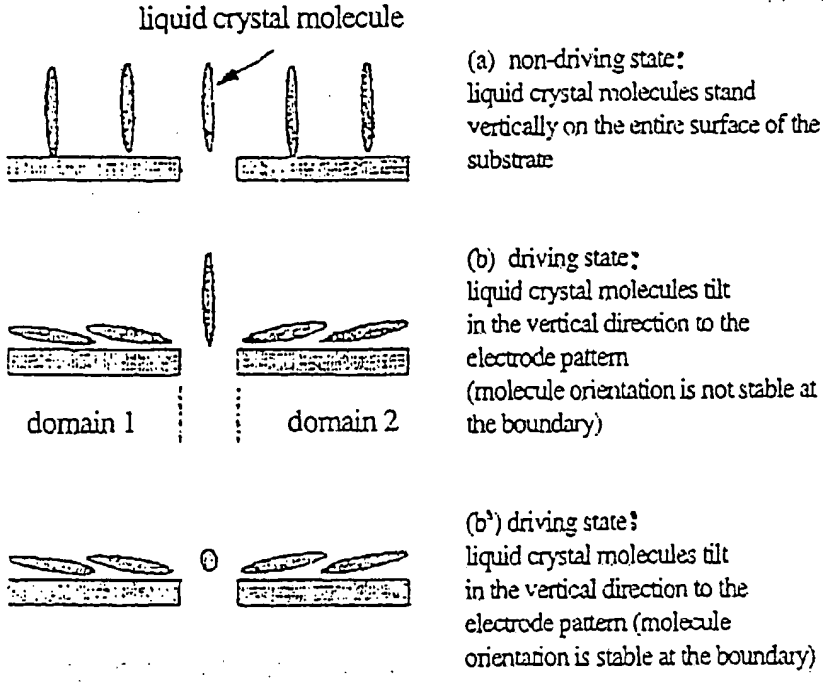
The Examiner has withdrawn claims 26, 32 and 33 from consideration as not reading on the species of Fig. 16-35C. Applicants respectfully submit that the features of the present invention described in claims 26, 32 and 33 are shown in Figs. 26, 27 and 28. The claimed rough patterns correspond to the projection patterns 61A in these Figures. Claim 26 is further supported by the description on page 41, lines 15-20 of the specification. Claim 32 is supported in the description on page 38, lines 6-11 and page 40, lines 19-25. Claim 33 finds support on page 40, lines 19-27 of the specification.

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claim has been amended in a readily apparent manner in response to this rejection. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

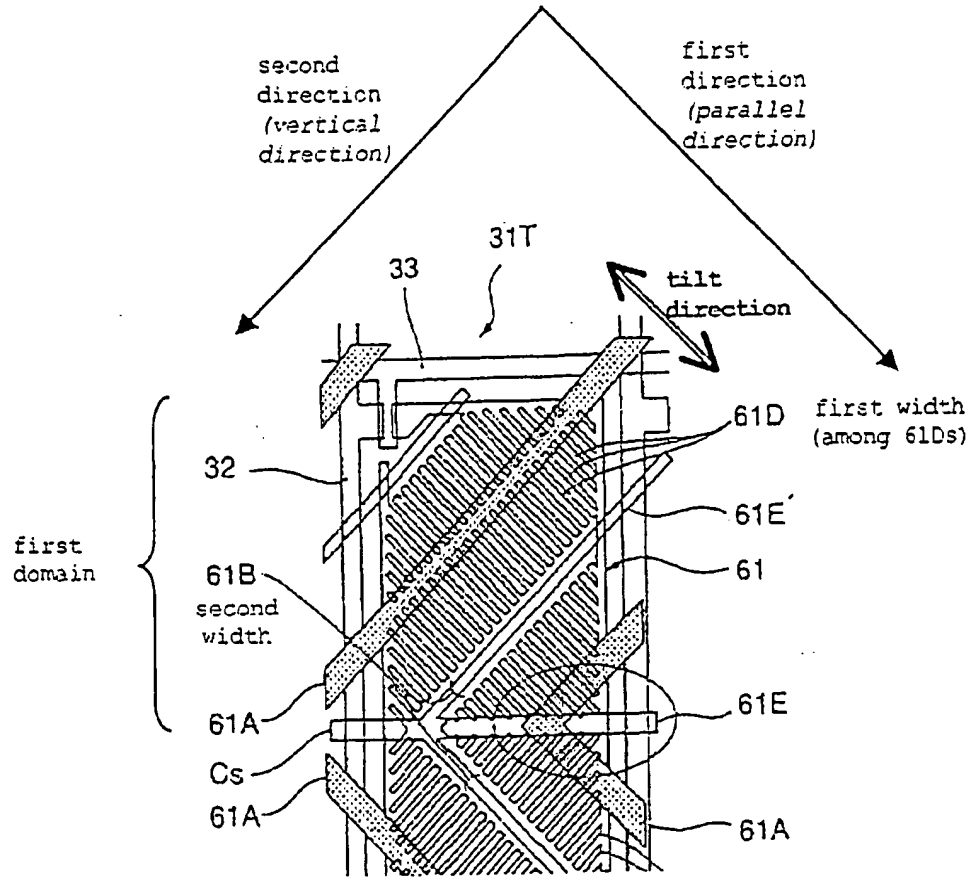
Claims 24, 25, 27-31, 34, 36, 37 and 74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal display device in which liquid crystal molecules substantially tilt in a first direction in a driving state, on and among electrode patterns on the first electrode, as in the present invention.

In an MVA (Multi-domain Vertical Alignment) of Takeda (see FIG. 4), liquid crystal molecules tilt in a vertical direction relative to a long side of non-electrode area or along a structural object, and only the liquid crystal molecules at a boundary between two domains tilt in a parallel direction.

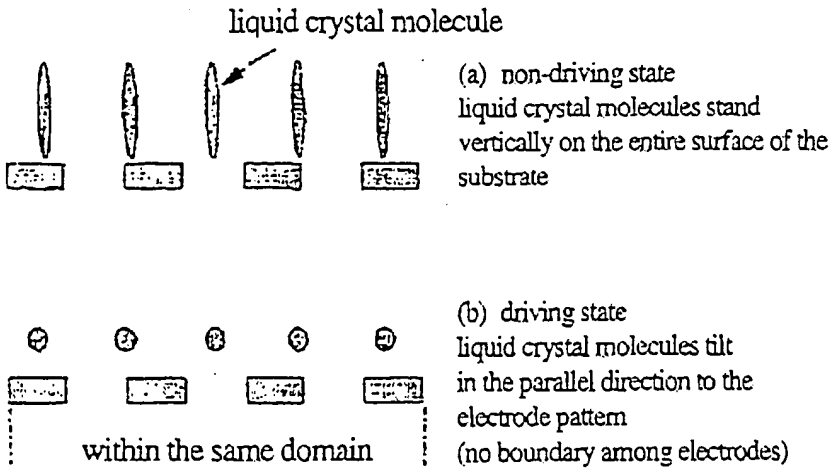
As illustrated in the diagrams below, the liquid crystal molecules in the Takeda device stand vertically on the entire surface of substrate in a non-driving state (Fig. (a)). When a driving voltage is applied, the liquid crystal molecules tilt in a vertical direction relative to the length (going into the paper) of an electrode pattern (Fig. (b)). However, liquid crystal molecules located at a boundary between domain 1 and domain 2 are not stable (Fig. (b)). To maintain a stable state, the liquid crystal molecules located at a boundary between domain 1 and domain 2 tilt in a parallel direction relative to the electrode pattern, as shown in (Fig. (b')). Fig. 10 of Takeda also shows that the liquid crystal molecules tilt in a parallel direction relative to the electrode pattern at the boundary between two domains.



An annotated Fig. 26 of the present application is reproduced below to describe the features of the invention recited in claim 24, in particular the direction of tilt of liquid crystal molecules relative to the claimed first direction in a driving state.



In contrast to the disclosure of Takeda et al, the liquid crystal molecules tilt in the parallel direction to the electrode pattern within the same domain on the electrode patterns and between the electrode patterns. In other words, the liquid crystal modules tilt in the first direction (parallel to the electrode patterns) during a driving state, on and among the electrode patterns, as illustrated in the two figures below.



For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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